

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 021716 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8532

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: AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0500

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3416

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY, IT

SUBJ: US/ SYRIAN RELATIONS: BRIEFING OF NEW ITALIAN AMB TO SYRIA

1. ON MAY 2, WE PROVIDED INFORMAL BRIEFING ON US/ SYRIAN RELATIONS TO MAURIZIO BUCCI, ITALIAN AMB- DESIGNATE TO SYRIA. BUCCI EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN DAMASCUS ABOUT MAY 15.

2. WE OUTLINED IN GENERAL TERMS US DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SARG, AND TO ASSIGN US DIP OFFICER UNDER ITALIAN FLAG IN DAMASCUS. WE REVIEWED PROBLEMS OF INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION OF US CITIZENS BY SYRIAN AUTHORITIES TOUCHING ON BARRATT, BATES AND WHITSITT CASES, AND NOTED THAT PROPER TREATMENT OF US CITIZENS BY SARG WOULD BE FACTOR IN POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS. WE EXPLAINED THAT US DESIRES TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH SYRIANS THROUGH ITALIAN EMB DAMASCUS, AND MENTIONED THAT USG OFFICIALS ON OCCASION HAD DIRECT CONTACT WITH PERSONNEL OF SYRIAN MISSION TO UN. WE OUTLINED US THINKING ON INCREASED CONTACTS WITH SYRIANS IN CULTURAL FIELD, TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR VIGOROUS PERFORMANCE OF BIOLOTTO AND CARDILLI IN PROTECTING US INTERESTS IN SYRIA.

3. BUCCI APPEARED TO BE WELL- BRIEFED, AND TO BE GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PROTECTION OF US INTERESTS. HE REVIEWED MINISTRY' S REQUIREMENT THAT SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS BE CHAN-
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NELED THROUGH ROME. BUCCI EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF LIAISON ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN EMB BEIRUT AND ITALIAN EMB DAMASCUS, AND SAID HE WOULD TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON AMB BUFFUM.

4. BIO DATA: BUCCI WAS BORN IN 1923 AND ENTERED ITALIAN DIP SERVICE IN 1949. HE HAS SERVED AT NATO PARIS, ITALIAN EMB PARIS, IN LUXEMBOURG, AND AT ITALIAN MISSION TO EC IN BRUSSELS. HIS CAREER EMPHASIS APPEARS TO BE ECONOMIC; HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND PLANNING IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE SINCE 1968. BUCCI IS MARRIED AND HAS AN EIGHT-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH FLUENTLY, HAS BEEN A COOPERATIVE CONTACT OF EMB ROME, AND IS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD US. VOLPE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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